

[HOUSE BILL.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Dec. 28, 1863.—Read first and second times, laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

[By Mr. CLAPP.]

## A BILL

To be entitled an Act to provide for wounded and disabled officers and soldiers an asylum to be called "The Veteran Soldiers Home."

1     SECTION 1. *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do*  
2     *enact*, That in order to make a just and adequate provision for  
3     the maintenance and comfort of officers and soldiers or seamen,  
4     who have been or may be disabled by wounds received, or disease  
5     contracted in the military or naval service of the Confederate  
6     States, during the pending war, the sum of  
7                     dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropri-  
8     ated to be expended, or so much thereof as may be necessary, by  
9     the Secretary of War, under the approval and direction of the  
10    President, in the lease or purchase of some safe and suitable  
11    location for an asylum to be called "The Veteran Soldiers Home,  
12    and for the erection and furnishing of such buildings and fixtures  
13    as the probable number of inmates may render necessary; and

14 in order that the several Confederate States and the citizens,  
15 thereof, may have the opportunity of becoming identified with  
16 this philanthropic and patriotic enterprise, and of participating  
17 in the pleasing and grateful duty of contributing to the relief of  
18 those who have perilled all, and have been disabled in the service  
19 of their country. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of War,  
20 immediately after the passage of this act, to invite the aid and  
21 co-operation of said states, through the respective Governors  
22 thereof, and to request the appointment of one person on behalf  
23 of each State, as a manager of the institution hereby established;  
24 and the several persons so appointed, shall, as soon as practicable,  
25 assemble at some time and place, to be designated by the Secretary  
26 of War, and organize themselves into a board of managers  
27 by the election of a president and other necessary officers, with  
28 such compensation as the board may deem adequate, and a majority  
29 of the persons composing said board shall constitute a quorum  
30 for the transaction of business. They shall continue in office  
31 for the period of two years from the date of their appointment,  
32 and until their successors are in like manner appointed, and subject  
33 to the general approval and direction of the Secretary of  
34 War. They shall have the management and control of said institution,  
35 and the power to make all requisite rules and regulations  
36 therefor, including the appointment of stewards and nurses, the  
37 organizing a police force and other necessary arrangements.

38 Upon their recommendation and application, the proper authori-  
39 ties shall appoint or assign for duty, at said institution, a com-  
40 missary, who shall provide needful supplies for the same, on  
41 Government account, and such surgeons and assistant surgeons,  
42 in the pay of the Government, as the wants of the institution may  
43 require, or as may be necessary for the skillful and successful  
44 management of an infirmary, which the board may establish as a  
45 part of the institution, for the benefit of all those invalids,  
46 soldiers or seamen, who may need the repose and treatment furn-  
47 ished therein, together with all other persons of said classes,  
48 whose wounds, from lasty field operations, require further sur-  
49 gical attention; and the Surgeon General shall be authorized to  
50 appoint the most skillful surgeons to discharge the duties of said  
51 infirmary. They shall adopt such measure as they may deem  
52 best for obtaining contributions from individuals desiring to aid  
53 the enterprise, and shall preserve a registry, which shall be kept  
54 open to public inspection, of the names of such contributors and  
55 the amount contributed by each, and, also, all donations received  
56 from the several state governments.

1     Sec. 2. The funds of the institution shall be placed in the  
2 hands of a treasurer, to be elected by the Board, who, before  
3 assuming the duties of his office, shall enter into a bond and  
4 security for the faithful performance thereof, which bond shall be  
5 approved by the Board of Managers, and made payable to said  
6 board and their successors in office, and may by them, for any  
7 infraction of the same, be put in suit in any State or Confederate  
8 Court having jurisdiction of the amount. The said funds, subject  
9 to the general approval of the Secretary of War, as aforesaid,  
10 shall be expended by the Board of Managers in the erection of  
11 such buildings, fixtures and appurtenances as may be necessary,  
12 and in providing for such agricultural, horticultural, mechanical  
13 or other employment or pursuit, as the wants of the institution

14 or the comfort and recreation of the inmates may suggest. The  
 15 said board shall, before the assembling of each regular session  
 16 of Congress, submit a report of the condition and state of affairs  
 17 of the institution to the Secretary of War, which it shall be his  
 18 duty to communicate to Congress.

1     Sec. 3. The beneficiaries of said institution, who shall be en-  
 2 titled to become inmates of the same, shall be all commissioned  
 3 and non-commissioned officers, musicians and private soldiers  
 4 and seamen, who have been, or who may hereafter be, retired or dis-  
 5 charged, by reason of wounds or injuries received, or disease  
 6 contracted in the military or naval service of the Confederate  
 7 States, in the line of their duty, during the pending war; and  
 8 any person claiming the benefit of this act shall present his ap-  
 9 plication in the manner prescribed by the Board of Managers,  
 10 and shall, if admitted, be subject to all of the rules and regulations  
 11 of the institution so long as he remains an inmate thereof. He  
 12 shall, at the time of his admittance, deposit with such person as  
 13 may be designated by the Board of Managers, all certificates and  
 14 other papers relating to his discharge from the service, and en-  
 15 titling him to future pay or compensation from the Government  
 16 as a retired or discharged officer, soldier or seamen, which said  
 17 pay or compensation shall, during the time of his continuance in  
 18 the institution, be paid by the disbursing officer, making such  
 19 payments to the treasurer of the institution, and shall constitute  
 20 a part of the general fund of the same, except so much thereof  
 21 as the Board of Managers may direct to be paid, from time to  
 22 time, to the person in whose right it is received.

1     Sec. 4 Any beneficiary of said institution may discontinue his  
 2 connection therewith at his option, and upon withdrawing from  
 3 the same, shall be entitled to withdraw, also, all certificates and  
 4 other papers deposited by him at the time of his admittance, and  
 5 shall be remitted to all the rights and benefits secured thereby.